

ABSOLUTE

SUPERMAN™



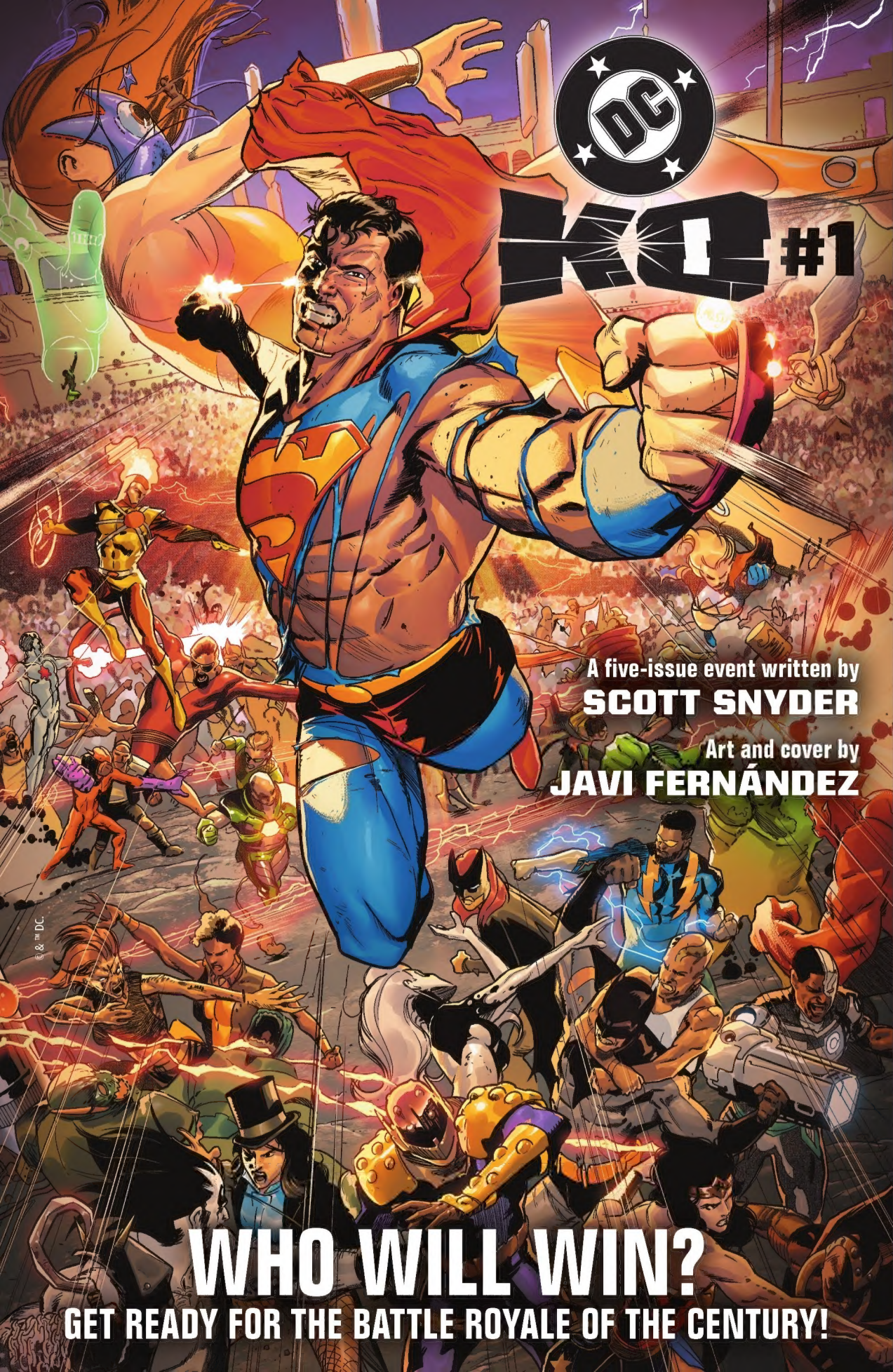
ALL IN

15+
TEEN+ 12



Sandoval

AARON
SANDOVAL
ARREDLA



A five-issue event written by
SCOTT SNYDER
Art and cover by
JAVI FERNÁNDEZ

WHO WILL WIN?
GET READY FOR THE BATTLE ROYALE OF THE CENTURY!

**DON'T MISS THE OPENING
ROUNDS THIS OCTOBER**



JUSTICE LEAGUE: THE OMEGA ACT SPECIAL



TITANS #28



THE FLASH #26



JUSTICE LEAGUE UNLIMITED #12



SUPERMAN #31

THE ACTION INTENSIFIES IN NOVEMBER AND BEYOND!

SOUTH
CENTRAL
KANSAS.
SMALLVILLE
SENIOR
LIVING.

MEMORY CARE UNIT

NURSE!
NURSE, OH MY
GOD! PLEASE
HURRY!

MS.
KENT, WHAT
IS IT? WHAT'S
WRONG?

THERE
ARE THINGS
I'LL **NEED**. I...
I'LL MAKE
A LIST.

I HAVE TO
GET IT READY
FOR HIM RIGHT
AWAY. **RIGHT
AWAY.**

DID YOU SEE
THAT **STORM** THAT
BLEW PAST? IT WAS
RED AS COULD BE,
WASN'T IT?

THAT
MEANS...HE'S
BACK.

MY
ANGEL.

MS. KENT,
WHAT IS IT
YOU NEED?

HMM, WHAT
DID I NEED
FOR **WHAT**,
DEAR?

I DON'T
KNOW, MA'AM.
YOU WERE THE ONE
YELLING ABOUT
SOMETHING.

**WAS
I?**

DID
YOU...DID YOU
SEE THAT **STORM**
THAT BLEW PAST? IT
LOOKED ALMOST
RED, DIDN'T
IT?

NOW **WHAT**
WAS IT YOU SAID
YOU NEEDED
AGAIN?

THE TALLGRASS PRAIRIE.

THE DUST STORM PICKED
US UP IN GREENLAND AND
OUTRAN LAZARUS FIGHTER
JETS AS IT CARRIED US
TO FREEDOM.

TO WHAT SOL KNEW WAS
THE ONLY PLACE ON EARTH
I'D EVER FELT **SAFE**.

HE CARRIED US
TO KANSAS.

BUT WE AREN'T
SAFE. NONE OF
US ARE.

WHAT
DO WE
DO?

WHAT
CAN WE
DO?

LOIS...YOUR
DAD. I'M SO
SORRY. DO YOU
WANNA...**TALK**
ABOUT IT?

NO,
I DON'T
THINK I DO,
JIMMY.

BRAINIAC CLAWED HIS WAY DEEP
INSIDE MY HEAD. PUSHING ME TO
BECOME **RA'S AL GHUL'S**
INSTRUMENT OF DESTRUCTION.

IT **ALMOST**
WORKED.

MY HAND WAS AT
BRAINIAC'S THROAT, AND
I WAS **SQUEEZING**.

UNTIL SOL DID WHAT
HE'S BEEN DOING
FOR YEARS NOW.

RELAX YOUR MIND,
KAL-EL. CLOSE YOUR
SENSES TO THE REST
OF THE WORLD.

AND
REMEMBER...

REMEMBER
WHO YOU ARE.



HE **SAVED** ME.

**FIVE YEARS
EARLIER.
MAYON
VOLCANO.**

I
WON'T
DO IT!

I'M AFRAID I
MUST INSIST.

YEAH? OR WHAT?
I CAN JUST GET
OTHER **CLOTHES**,
YOU KNOW?

I'M SURE YOU COULD, BUT I
DON'T IMAGINE THEY WILL
COME IMBUED WITH AN
IN-DEPTH KNOWLEDGE OF
KRYPTONIAN PHYSIOLOGY.

OR PROVE CAPABLE
OF REGULATING YOUR
SOLAR INTAKE WHEN
YOU SUFFER ANOTHER
NOCTURNAL FLARE
LIKE--

OKAY,
NEVER MIND,
I GET IT, SOL!
BUT I'M STILL
NOT DOING
IT!

I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE
NEAR THOSE **EARTH**
PEOPLE AGAIN.

THERE'S
NOTHING I NEED
OUT THERE, AND
YOU KNOW IT.

I DON'T
HAVE TO EAT.
BARELY SLEEP.
DON'T NEED A
ROOF OVER
MY HEAD.

I'LL BE
JUST FINE IN
THE PLACES
WHERE
THEY'RE
NOT.

I KNOW YOU ARE
HURTING. FROM
WHAT HAPPENED
WITH THE KENTS.

I DON'T
WANNA TALK
ABOUT THAT.

BUT YOU CANNOT
SPEND YOUR LIFE
IN ISOLATION.

YOU MAY NOT REQUIRE
PHYSICAL SUSTENANCE
IN THE WAY YOU ONCE DID,
BUT YOU ARE NO DIFFERENT
FROM THESE HUMANS IN
ONE REGARD.

YOU WERE NOT
MADE TO LIVE
ALONE, KAL-EL.



I'M *NEVER* ALONE THOUGH, AM I, SOL? NOT WITH YOU ALWAYS *WHINING* IN MY EAR!

I AM AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE DESIGNED BY YOUR MOTHER. I AM NO SUBSTITUTE FOR TRUE COMPANIONSHIP.

YEAH, YOU SURE GOT THAT RIGHT!



THIS ANXIETY AND SENSE OF DEFIANCE ARE NOT UNCOMMON FOR A CHILD YOUR AGE.

YET YOU ARE UNLIKE ANY CHILD ON THIS WORLD OR ANY OTHER.

ALL THE MORE REASON FOR YOU TO AVOID BECOMING UNTETHERED TO THIS PLANET'S NATIVE INHABITANTS.



MY INTERSTELLAR CAPABILITIES WERE EXHAUSTED ON THE FLIGHT FROM KRYPTON. LIKE IT OR NOT, WE ARE STRANDED ON EARTH.

NOT FOR LONG. ONE DAY I'LL BE STRONG ENOUGH TO JUMP TO THE MOON AND NEVER LOOK BACK.

PERHAPS. BUT UNTIL THEN...

FINE. LET'S JUST GET IT *OVER* WITH.



FIRST THINGS FIRST. MY SENSORS INDICATE THAT YOUR PERSONAL AROMA HAS BECOME QUITE PUNGENT IN RECENT WEEKS.

OH, FOR THE LOVE OF...



A BATH?!

I HATE THIS ALREADY!

THE PHILIPPINES.

"WHERE'RE YOU *TAKING* ME, SOL?"

"THAT IS UP TO YOU. WITH YOUR ABILITIES AND INTELLECT, YOU COULD EARN A PLACE IN THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF EARTHLY SOCIETY."

"YOU MEAN... LIKE THE *SCIENCE LEAGUE*?"

"THIS IS NOT KRYPTON. YOU MUST ADAPT YOUR THINKING TO THE WORLD AT HAND."



"HERE YOU COULD ACHIEVE THE SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT YOUR PARENTS WERE DENIED."

"MY PARENTS LIVED THEIR WHOLE LIVES WITH THIS *SYMBOL* ON THEIR CHESTS. SO I'LL DAMN SURE DIE WITH IT ON MINE."

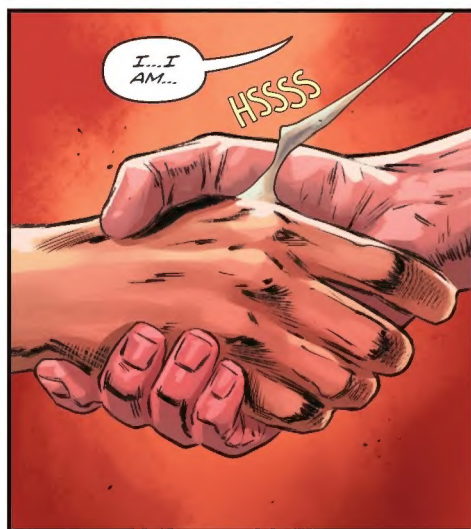
"THERE'S ONLY *ONE* PLACE A SON OF THE *REDLANDS* BELONGS."

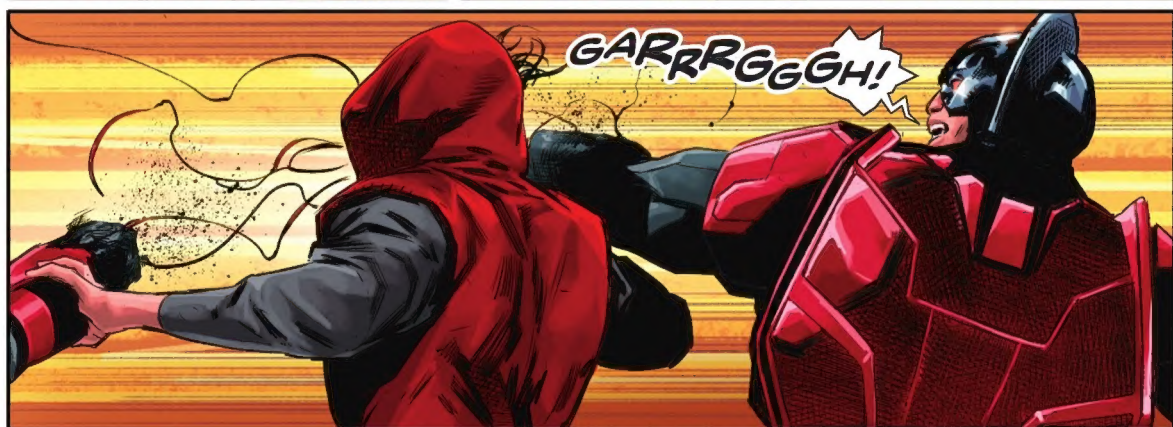


"AND THAT'S IN THE *SUN*."

"AS YOU WISH, KAL-EL."

IT WOULDN'T LAST.





**MOMENTS
LATER.
THE PEAK
OF KANGKAR
PÜNZUM.**



I DIDN'T
MEAN TO DO
THAT.

OF COURSE
YOU DIDN'T,
KAL.

I DON'T
KNOW MY OWN
STRENGTH.

EVERY DAY THAT
YOU ARE HERE,
ABSORBING THE
ENERGY OF EARTH'S
YELLOW SUN, YOUR
ABILITIES MULTIPLY.

YOU MUST LEARN
TO BE ESPECIALLY
CAREFUL AROUND
THE HUMANS.

WILL HE
DIE, THAT
MAN? DID I
JUST...KILL
HIM?



LAZARUS HAS ADVANCED
MEDICAL FACILITIES.
HIS WOUND IS BEING
TREATED AS WE SPEAK,
I ASSURE YOU.

MAYBE...

...MAYBE
HE *SHOULD*
DIE.

KAL...



ISN'T
THAT WHAT
HE DESERVES?!
WHAT *ALL* OF THEM
DESERVE, THOSE
**LAZARUS
GOONS!**

WITH
THEIR BIG
GUNS AND THEIR
FANCY ARMOR!
I COULD KILL
THEM ALL IN
A *DAY!*

KAL, YOU
DO NOT MEAN
THAT.

LAZARUS
MEANS *MURDER!*
IF I FOUGHT BACK
AND STOPPED THEM
FOR GOOD, IT'D
BE...

IT'D BE
JUST LIKE MY
DAD...WHEN HE
SLAUGHTERED
THOSE *BEASTS*
IN THE MINE.



HUMANS MAY BE PRIMITIVE,
WITH A SHOCKING CAPACITY
FOR CRUELTY TOWARD ONE
ANOTHER, BUT THEY ARE
NOT ANIMALS.

AND IF JOR-EL AND LARA
WERE HERE, THEY WOULD
TELL YOU, JUST AS THEY
ONCE STOOD UP AND TOLD
THE SCIENCE LEAGUE...

...THAT YOU DO NOT
HAVE THE RIGHT TO
JUDGE AND EXECUTE
PEOPLE...SIMPLY
BECAUSE YOU CAN.

THEY'RE
NOT HERE
THOUGH, ARE
THEY?!

**THEY'RE
DEAD!**

AND YOU
DON'T KNOW
WHAT THE HELL
YOU'RE **TALKING**
ABOUT, SOL!

**YOU'RE
NOT EVEN
REAL!**

YOU ARE CORRECT.
I WAS MADE TO
PROTECT YOU. AND
TO REMIND YOU
WHO YOU ARE.

THIS I WILL
CONTINUE TO
DO, KAL-EL.

FOR THERE IS
NO ONE ELSE
WHO CAN.

SOL...I THINK
I'D...LIKE TO TRY
AND...GET MY OWN
THOUGHTS DOWN
NOW.

YOU
KNOW...IN
PRIVATE.

OF COURSE, KAL.
THESE HAVE BEEN
EXTRAORDINARILY
TRAUMATIC TIMES
FOR YOU.

TOMORROW, WE
WILL TALK AGAIN
OF THE DANGERS
OF ISOLATION.
UNTIL THEN...

YOU DESERVE
YOUR SOLITUDE

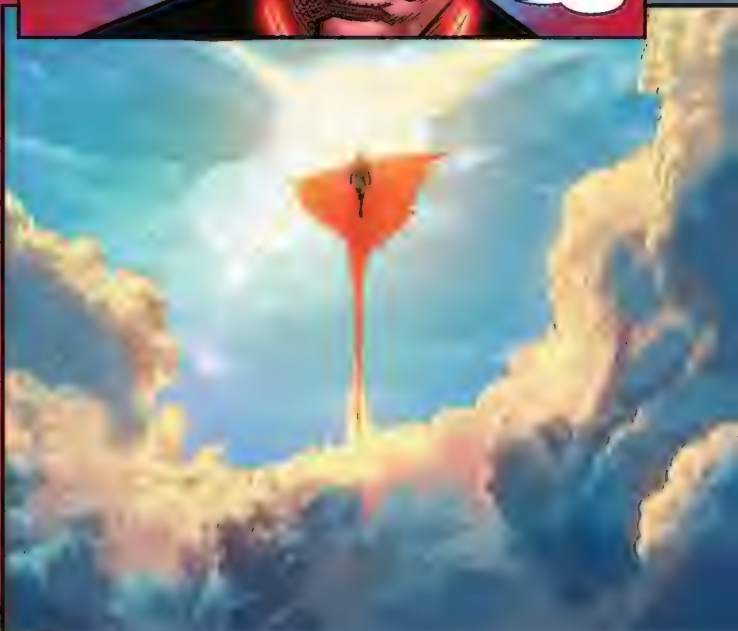
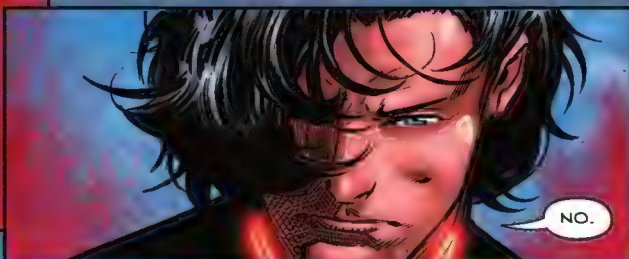


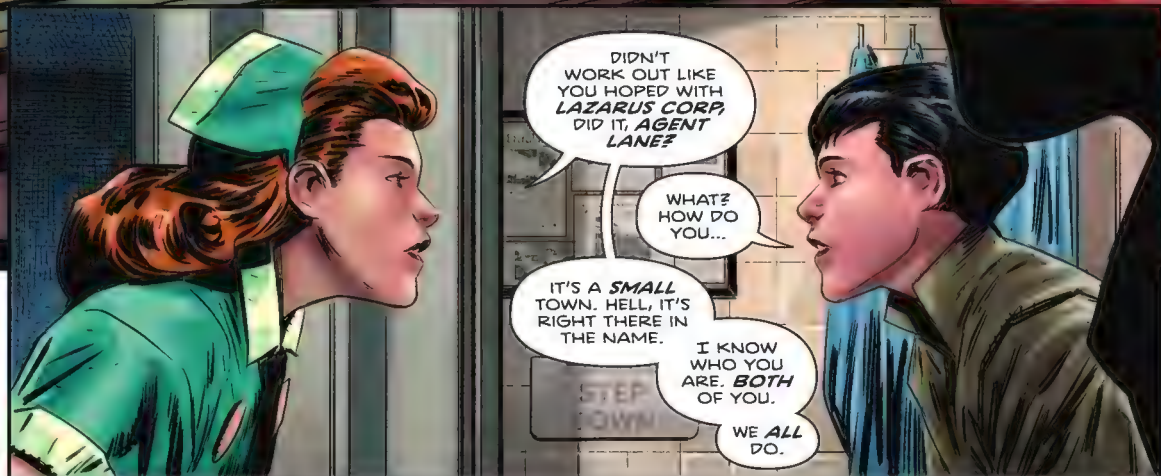
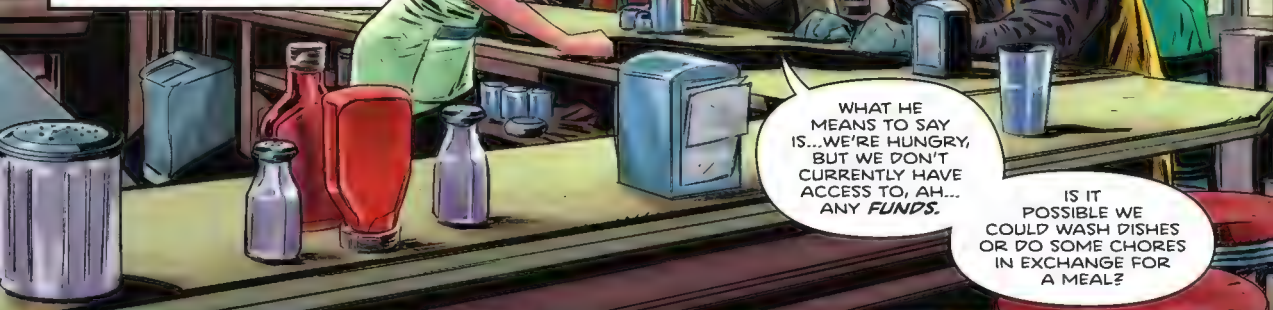
KANSAS.
NOW.



KAL ?

ARE YOU
WELL ?







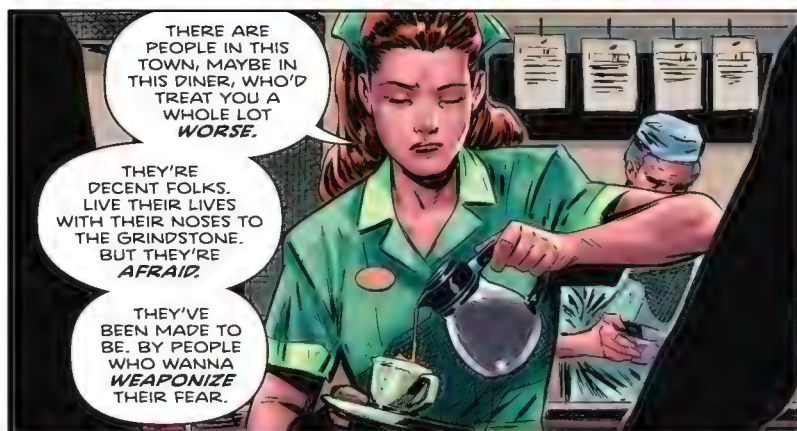
LOOK, WE DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE.

SIT DOWN. IF YOU WERE STILL WITH LAZARUS, MS. LANE, OR IF I BELIEVED ANYTHING THEY SAID ON THE NEWS, MR. OSEN...

...I'D BE SHOWING YOU TO THE DOOR MYSELF, WITH MY TWELVE-GAUGE BETWEEN YOUR RIBS.

ACTUALLY, THE NAME'S--

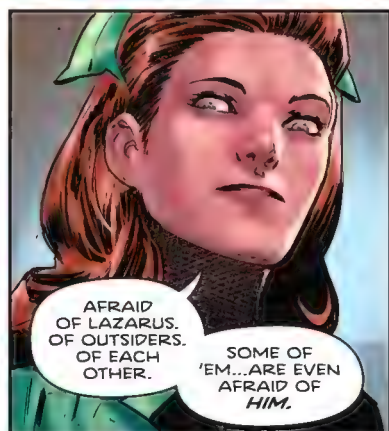
SHUT UP, JIMMY.



THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN, MAYBE IN THIS DINER, WHO'D TREAT YOU A WHOLE LOT WORSE.

THEY'RE DECENT FOLKS. LIVE THEIR LIVES WITH THEIR NOSES TO THE GRINDSTONE. BUT THEY'RE AFRAID.

THEY'VE BEEN MADE TO BE. BY PEOPLE WHO WANNA WEAPONIZE THEIR FEAR.



AFRAID OF LAZARUS. OF OUTSIDERS. OF EACH OTHER.

SOME OF 'EM...ARE EVEN AFRAID OF HIM.



OF WHAT HE CAN DO. OF WHERE HE COULD BE FROM AND WHAT THAT MEANS.

THE REST OF US...WE KNOW WHO HE IS BECAUSE WE KNOW WHAT HE'S DONE.



SCHOOL BUS PULLED FROM LAKE BY UNKNOWN SAVIOR

"IT'S A MIRACLE" CHURCH FIRE TURNS TO ICE, SAVING CONGREGATION

FAMILY SURVIVE TORNADO WITH HELP OF "ANGEL"

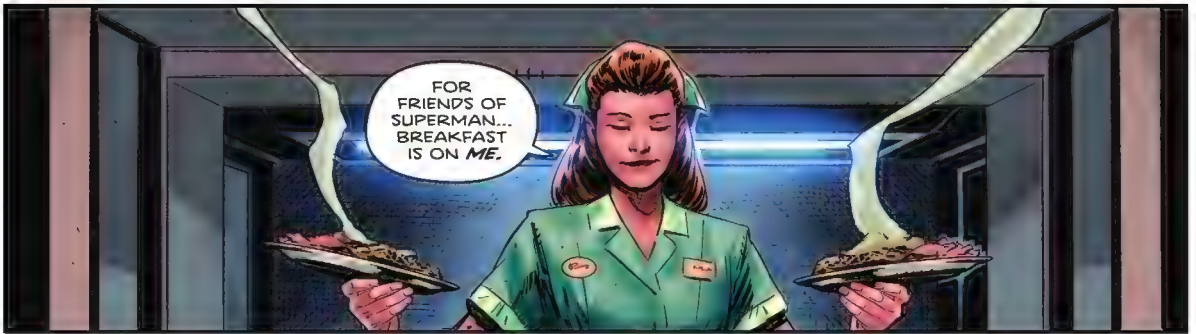
WHAT HE'S DONE FOR SMALLVILLE.

HOW MANY LIVES HE'S SAVED. WITHOUT ASKING FOR NOTHING IN RETURN.



I WAS RAISED TO JUDGE SOMEONE BY THE LIGHTNING IN THEIR HANDS, NOT JUST THE THUNDER IN THEIR MOUTHS.

I KNOW YOU TRIED TO HELP HIM WHEN HE NEEDED IT MOST.



FOR FRIENDS OF
SUPERMAN...
BREAKFAST
IS ON ME.



NAH, IT'S
ON ME.

ON ME
AS WELL.

THEN
LET ME GET
LUNCH.

I GOT
SUPPER.



WOW.

THANK
YOU. ALL
OF YOU.
TRULY.

YOU THINK
I COULD GET
AN EXTRA
BOWL OF--

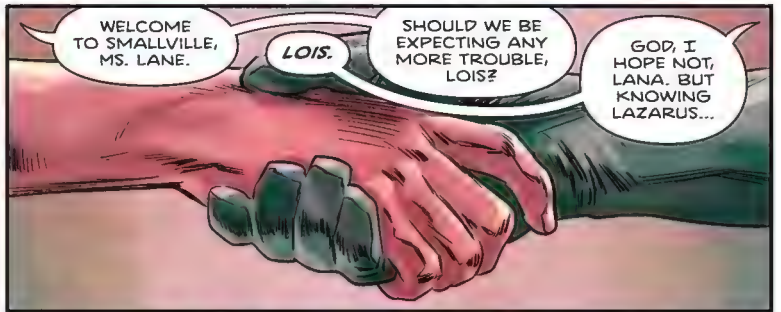
SHUT UP,
JIMMY.



THANK YOU,
MISS...?

LANG.

BUT
YOU CAN
CALL ME
LANA.



WELCOME
TO SMALLVILLE,
MS. LANE.

LOIS.

SHOULD WE BE
EXPECTING ANY
MORE TROUBLE,
LOIS?

GOD, I
HOPE NOT,
LANA. BUT
KNOWING
LAZARUS...



...I'D KEEP THAT
TWELVE-GAUGE
HANDY.

OH, IT
ALWAYS
IS.





"I WAS
NEVER WITHOUT
PROTECTION.

"NEVER
WITHOUT CARE
AND GUIDANCE.

"NEVER LACKING
FOR COMMUNITY."

OHAYO
GOZAIMASU.
GOOD
MORNING.

OHAYO...
GOZAIMASU.

"I WAS *NEVER*
ALONE, SOL."





NO,
THANK YOU. I...
DON'T REALLY
EAT.

DID
YOU SAY
YOU DON'T
EAT?

DID HE SAY
HE DOESN'T
EAT?

THAT'S...
THE SADDEST
THING I'VE EVER
HEARD.

LOOKS LIKE
YOU'RE FEELING
BETTER.



AGENT
LANE...

SOL TOLD ME
WHAT HAPPENED
IN BRAINIAC'S
LAIR...TO YOUR
FATHER.

YEAH. AT
LEAST HE DIED
DOING WHAT HE LOVED.
YELLING, SHOOTING AT
BAD GUYS, AND TELLING
ME WHAT TO DO.



I'M
DEEPLY
SORRY
FOR YOUR
LOSS.

ALL I
CAN SAY IS
THAT THOSE
RESPONSIBLE WILL
FACE JUSTICE.
I WILL NOT
REST UNTIL
THEY DO.



WE ALL MADE
OUR CHOICES. MY
DAD INCLUDED. I'M
JUST GLAD YOU'RE
FEELING BETTER,
SUPERMAN.

AH, HE
DOESN'T REALLY
LIKE TO BE
CALLED--

KAL.



MY
NAME IS
KAL-EL.

KAL-EL OF
KRYPTON.





"...HE'S
**ALREADY
HERE.**"

I WANT THE
ENTIRE TOWN
SURROUNDED.
NOTHING IN
OR OUT.



AND THE PEOPLE OF
SMALLVILLE?

PUT
THE **BOOT**
OF LAZARUS
ON THEIR
NECKS.

BURN
THEIR HOUSES
AND DEFILE THEIR
CHURCHES. CAST
THEM INTO THE
MUD LIKE **PIGS**,
STRIPPED OF
DECENCY.

KILL
ANYONE
WHO DARES
TO EVEN **THINK**
OF DEFYING US,
IN AS LOUD AND
APPALLING A
MANNER AS
POSSIBLE.



YES,
FATHER.
THY WILL BE
DONE.

FILL
THIS LAND
WITH SCREAMS
AND SUFFERING,
TALIA. UNTIL THE
SUPERMAN HAS NO
CHOICE BUT TO
COME FOR US,
WITH ALL HIS
**ALIEN
FURY.**



HE'S SO SHAMEFULLY **MEEK**. SO FRIGHTENED
OF LOSING CONTROL. WE MAY HAVE TO
MURDER EVERY CREATURE HE FAVORS
TO UNLEASH HIS DEMONS.

STARTING
WITH **AGENT
LANE.**

DO WHAT
THOU WILT, MY
DAUGHTER.



AND ONCE
SUPERMAN IS
ADEQUATELY **ENRAGED**,
I WILL HANDLE
HIS BAPTISM.
PERSONALLY.

BY THE
HANDS OF
RA'S AL GHUL,
HE WILL BE
REDEEMED.



AND
SOMEDAY THE
HISTORY BOOKS
WILL RECORD THAT
THE WORLD WAS
SAVED RIGHT
HERE...



"...IN THE
WORTHLESS
HINTERLANDS
OF *KANSAS*."

LAZARUS

LAZARUS

SMALLVILLE
K

KANSAS

5 MILES AHEAD

10 MILES
AD ASTRUM

NEXT:
SMALLVILLE
UNDER SIEGE!

ABSOLUTE SUPERMAN

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BECCA CAREY *LETTERER*

RAFA SANDOVAL & ULISES ARREOLA *COVER*

JAE LEE & JUNE CHUNG, KRIS ANKA,
MATTIA DE IULIS *VARIANT COVERS*

THE BATTLE OF KANSAS

ASH PADILLA
ASSISTANT EDITOR
CHRIS CONROY
EDITOR

PART ONE SOL

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY
SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER. BY SPECIAL
ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY
SIEGEL FAMILY.



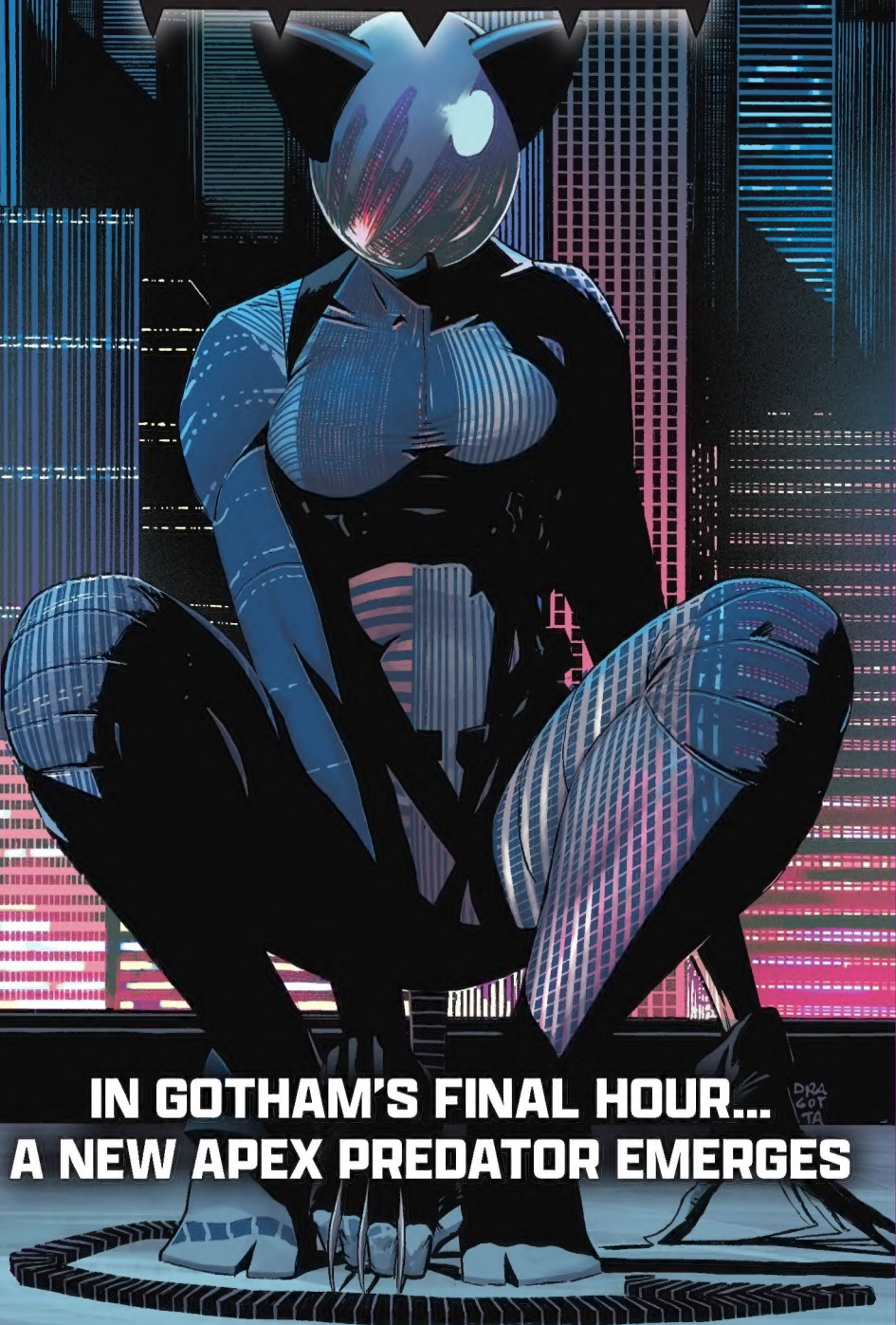
ABSOLUTE

BATMAN

#13

THE ERA OF
ABSOLUTE
CATWOMAN
BEGINS
OCTOBER

© & TM DC.



IN GOTHAM'S FINAL HOUR...
A NEW APEX PREDATOR EMERGES

Written by **SCOTT SNYDER** • Art by **NICK DRAGOTTA**



A CONVERSATION WITH SCOTT SNYDER AND JOSHUA WILLIAMSON

In 2024, *Absolute Batman* writer Scott Snyder and Superman writer Joshua Williamson gave shape to DC's future in the fateful *DC All In Special* one-shot—the start of the All In era and the birth of the Absolute Universe. One year later, Snyder teams with artist Javi Fernández for *DC K.O.*, a massive, fight-filled, five-issue DC Universe event starting in October and running through March; with Williamson presiding over the tie-in series. In the second half of a conversation between Snyder and Williamson, the friends and frequent collaborators discuss what's at stake in the event and the *who would win?* fun of the story.

Scott Snyder: The whole event at its core is giant fights between your favorite heroes—but not grimdark. It's really fun! The whole goal of it is to bring you back to that kid joy of who would win in a fight.

Joshua Williamson: We all have these conversations—we go to the comic book store and talk about who would win, and that's what we want to do a story about. We have some surprises; it's not only going to be the characters you're expecting. We're definitely going to have characters that you're not expecting to get into this competition.



DC K.O. #1 variant cover by Noobovich

Snyder: When you die in the tournament, you're out. You turn into a statue, you're put on a shelf, and you lose. You can't become the King Omega. Whoever is the champion, the whole universe bends towards them so they become this giant celestial being. If you show mercy, if you act in a way that is compassionate, then the Omega energy goes down. The only way is to be merciless. To go all the way.

Williamson: The heroes have to really fight and really push themselves in ways they never have.



DC K.O. #1 variant cover by Jim Lee and Alex Sinclair

Snyder: Some characters won't know if they can do it, whereas other characters have been waiting for it.

Williamson: Some characters already have plans on how to take out other characters.

There's an emotional core. When we did *Dark Nights: Metal*, it was very much about a Batman story, when we did *Dark Nights: Death Metal* it was a Wonder Woman story, and now we're doing *DC K.O.* and we knew this was going to be a Superman story.



DC K.O. #1 variant cover by Frank Cho and Sabine Rich

Snyder: I haven't gotten to write Clark in quite a few years. At first, I was pretty reluctant, because there are so many great Superman stories happening right now. The truth is, he was the only character who could really be the hero of this story. The only way to win is to become the thing you hate.

Whoever wins, whoever becomes the King Omega, gets to restore everything on the other side. If they can beat him, they can put everything back the way it was. The question of the event is, is it worth it? Is it worth becoming the thing you hate?



DC K.O. #1 main cover by Javi Fernández and Alejandro Sánchez

**DON'T MISS
DC K.O. #1,
ON SALE OCTOBER!**

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